

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR & PENSIONS

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Lamar Alexander of Tennessee - Chairman

Encourage Innovation

The Problem:

Complex regulations at the federal level keep safe and effective drugs tied up in the regulatory process, rather than in doctor's offices and medicine cabinets for too long.

These regulations also stifle competition in the drug marketplace which keeps many drug prices too high for Americans.

The Solution:

The Senate health committee has produced 19 bills which incorporate 50 different bipartisan legislative proposals to help bring safe treatments and cures to American patients more quickly.

This companion legislation to the House-passed 21st Century Cures Act will lower regulatory burdens at FDA to encourage competition and innovation, while continuing to ensure that drugs and devices are safe and effective.

These bills will cut red tape at FDA and encourage innovation at NIH—for example, Cures includes bills that will create a breakthrough path for new medical devices, give the FDA new authority to attract talented researchers, and give the NIH new authority to eliminate wasteful paperwork. This legislation will also encourage interoperability of electronic medical records and reduction in excessive physician documentation, allowing doctors to spend more time with their patients.